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2. Prevention of Deliberacy. Northrop. Brawa. Cu
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[For The North Carolina Teacher.]

A HISTORY OF THE AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE.

BY W. J. PEELE, ESQ., RALEIGH, N. C.

It is said that ten years before the agitation of the movement culminating in this institution some farmers in Edgecombe county suggested the propriety of an Agricultural College. As the benefits of industrial education have been more or less familiar to all well-informed persons for the past twenty-five years, it is quite probable that the suggestion was actually made as was alleged. It was either not very well received or not much insisted upon, for none of the originators of this movement ever heard of it.

But it is not the purpose of this paper to treat of mere suggestions. It was said of John Huss that if he had lived a century later he would not have been burned at the stake, and that his reformation would have succeeded like Luther's. How this would have been we cannot tell. All that we now know is that he did not live a century later, that his reformation did not succeed like Luther's, and that he was burned at the stake. It is my purpose in this paper to show that nearly ten years later than ten years ago the propriety of establishing an Industrial School in North Carolina was suggested among some young men of this city; that then they showed how the thing could be done, and that then, with the powerful assistance of many others, they went ahead and did it.

It is also the further purpose of this paper to record the names of the principal actors in this movement. There are some like Mr. Primrose, Mr. Pullen, Dr. Dabney and Mr. Page, whose names will always be indissolubly connected with this institution. There are also others like Colonel Green, Mr. Williams and Mr. Leazar, of the Board of Agriculture, whose names ought to be underscored on the corner-stone. There are still others like Mr. Winslow, Mr. Leach and Mr. Ashley, of the Watauga Club, Mr. Dixon, Mr. R. Winston and Mr. Fries,

in the Legislature, Major Harding, Major Tucker, Mr. Bailey and Mr. W. G. Upchurch, of the citizens, and Colonel Polk, of the *Progressive Farmer*, whose services are a part of the history of industrial education in North Carolina.

On May 26th, 1884, the Watauga Club, which had just then been formed, adopted a prospectus of its principles and purposes, containing the following clause: "We proceed upon the assumption, which cannot be denied, that there is in our community a serious lack of accurate and practical information upon the most common economic questions which arise for our consideration." In response to this sentiment one of the members, who had been appointed to "address the club upon any subject he may elect," prepared and read at the next regular meeting of June 18th a paper upon *Industrial Education* and the feasibility of establishing an Industrial School in North Carolina. From time to time other papers were read and suggestions offered as to the most practical plans for establishing such school. On the 17th of December, 1884, a committee was appointed with instructions to present to the club at its next regular meeting, to be held in January, 1885, a "definite report" upon the practicability of establishing an Industrial School in North Carolina, "with a view of submitting the same to the Legislature which should then be in session."

At the next meeting of the club, January 7th, 1885, Mr. Arthur Winslow, himself a graduate of an Industrial School, read the report of the committee. On the 15th of January, at a called meeting of the club, Mr. W. H. Page offered the following:

"*Resolved*, That a committee be appointed to memorialize the Legislature in the name of this club to establish an Industrial School in North Carolina, and respectfully offer to the Legislature, or a proper committee thereof, all the information on the subject in possession of the club; that the committee be empowered, if need be, to publish such information also."

This resolution was adopted, and Messrs. Page, Winslow and others were appointed as the committee. With the assistance of

Dr. Dabney, the committee prepared a memorial, the substance of which is as follows:

"1st. To establish an Industrial School in North Carolina, a training place in the wealth-producing arts and sciences.

"2d. To be located at Raleigh in connection with the State Agricultural Department.

"3d. To erect a suitable building and provide proper equipment.

"4th. That the instruction be in wood-work, mining, metallurgy, and practical agriculture.

"5th. That necessary shops and laboratories be erected adjoining the buildings of the Agricultural Department, and that an experimental farm in the vicinity of Raleigh be equipped.

"6th. That an Industrial School is of prime importance and greatly in demand."

To this was subjoined information and estimates of cost.

The committee appeared before the Legislative Committee on Education, whose acting chairman was Mr. Leazar. Mr. Thomas Dixon, an enthusiastic believer in industrial education, introduced a bill of his own without waiting for the report of the committee. Mr. Leazar for the committee subsequently introduced the bill which became the Act of 1885. The bill passed the House by a vote of 51 to 11. In the Senate Messrs. R. W. Winston, Willis R. Williams, Capt. S. B. Alexander and Major John Gatling, deceased, were its special champions. It passed by a vote of 23 to 9, becoming a law on the 7th day of March, 1885.

The time will come when posterity will demand the ayes and noes on this bill, but I will not call them to-day. The bill became a law not without considerable difficulty. Some opposed it because they were fossils and oppose everything; some feared it would ultimately draw the Land Scrip Fund away from the University. It was the general opinion of its friends at the time it was passed that it would have failed if it had called for one dollar from the general treasury.

The main features of the Act are interesting at this day. It provides:

1st. That the Board of Agriculture should seek proposals of donations from the cities and towns of North Carolina, and when an adequate donation should be made by any city or town, there the school should be located, giving the place the preference which offered the greatest inducements.

2d. That the school should be under joint control of the Board of Agriculture and directors from such town or city.

3d. That the instruction should be in wood-work, mining, metallurgy, practical agriculture, and such other branches of industrial education as may be deemed expedient.

4th. That the Board of Agriculture should be authorized to apply annually \$5,000 of the surplus funds of their department to the establishment and maintenance of said school.

Pursuant to Act of Assembly, and authorized by resolution of the Board adopted October 15th, 1885, Mr. McGehee, Commissioner of Agriculture, advertised for proposals. Charlotte responded, offering an eligible site and \$5,000 in money; Kinston offered \$10,000 in money; Raleigh offered \$5,000 in money (increased subsequently to \$8,000), the Exposition Building, valued at \$3,000, one acre of land donated by Mr. Wm. Stronach (conditioned upon locating the school upon it), and subsequently the use of twenty acres donated by the Directors of the State Fair, situated in the western part of the Fair Ground.

At this meeting of October 15th the Board of Agriculture passed a resolution instructing the Director, Dr. Dabney, to prepare and submit at their next meeting a report upon the cost and character of an *Experimental Farm*, and also upon the conduct of an Industrial School.

Not satisfied with the progress made since the passage of the Act, the Watauga Club on November 4th passed a resolution calling for a mass-meeting of the friends of industrial education throughout the State. With the aid of the citizens of Raleigh, acting through Messrs. Primrose and Latta, a great mass-meeting was called together on the 26th day of November. Capt. Octavius Coke was made chairman. Dr. Chaney, from Atlanta, Maj. R. Bingham, W. H. Kerr and others addressed the meeting.

Great enthusiasm prevailed and the following resolution was adopted:

"We, citizens of North Carolina, in mass-meeting assembled, feeling a deep interest in the material welfare and prosperity of our State, and well knowing that intelligent labor is the basis of our civilization; believing that our people are of right entitled to an institution where the best methods of manual labor may be taught and its dignity faithfully impressed upon the minds of our youth; deeply sensible of the necessity of a system of education which will train the mind and hand together, and of the truth that pure theoretical and literary education is not of itself sufficient to meet the demands of the people or the necessities of these times; profoundly conscious of the fact that the avenues of livelihood to men trained only for literary pursuits are already crowded, and holding as we do that it is the duty of the State to her sons as she increases their demands upon society by education to open up to them and multiply the avenues of legitimate occupations; therefore resolved,

"1. That we ought to have an Industrial School.

"2. That it ought to be located in Raleigh.

"3. That we will give such institution our cordial co-operation and support.

"4. That a committee of twenty-five be appointed to prepare a report upon the cost, character and constitution of such school, and submit the same to the Board of Agriculture at their next regular meeting in December."

Mr. Primrose was made chairman of the committee. Among the most active of its members were Mr. Donald McRae, of Wilmington, and Maj. R. J. Powell, of Chatham. The committee, accompanied by Major Tucker, who represented the Raleigh stockholders in their donation of the Exposition Building, submitted these resolutions and their report. (Several other stockholders, outside of Raleigh, also generously donated their stock.) Speeches were made by Mr. Primrose, Maj. Tucker, Capt. Ashe, Mr. Ashley and others. The Board of Agriculture appointed a committee to report at next meeting upon the sufficiency of the

amount tendered to establish the school. They adopted a resolution establishing the *Experimental Farm*.

At the meeting of the Board, January 20th, 1886, the citizens' committee made another supplemental report. The Board adopted a resolution against the establishment of the school upon the offers made, but donated \$5,000 annually, to be applied as soon as a sum adequate, in their judgment, should be offered. The vote in the Board was understood to be close. The discussion was adjourned to the newspapers and for awhile it was lively. Never did industrial education get a better advertisement. Both sides claimed friends with the school. The dispute was upon adequacy of the sums offered and certain technicalities.

At the meeting of the Board of Agriculture, April 21st, 1886, the citizens' committee again appeared before them and increased the offer of the city of Raleigh to \$8,000 in money. This offer was accepted and a resolution to establish the school at this city was adopted. Messrs. Leach, Moring and Wynne were appointed directors on the part of the city. A site was purchased from Dr. Grissom, and negotiations were pending for letting out the contract to build when some events occurred which materially changed the whole history of industrial education in North Carolina.

As far back as 1885 Mr. Lovill had offered an amendment to the Industrial School bill then pending, that the Land Scrip Fund be taken away from the University and given to the proposed school. It was lost. Some time after that Col. Polk began to make the same demand through the columns of his paper. On the 18th of January, 1887, a mass-meeting of farmers, called together to consider the condition and needs of our farmers, passed a resolution, offered by Mr. Wilson, for the farmers of Swift Creek, to the effect that the farmers needed an *Agricultural College*, and that the Land Scrip Fund be diverted from the University and applied thereto.

On the 26th of January a great mass-meeting of farmers and workingmen, called together from forty counties by Col. Polk, mainly to consider this question, was organized with Elias Carr

as chairman, and passed a resolution to the effect (1) that the time had come to establish an Agricultural and Mechanical College in accordance with the Land Scrip Act; (2) that the interest of the Land Scrip Fund should be paid to the college; (3) that a sufficient amount from the general treasury be appropriated and available convict labor to establish, equip and maintain such college, upon a basis equal to the demands of the hour; (4) that the surplus funds of the Agricultural Department be utilized in this connection; (5) that every student be required to take a course of manual training; (6) that the payment of the Land Scrip Fund to this college should not work a diminution of the appropriations to the University; (7) that the funds and property of the Industrial School, including the donations of the City of Raleigh, in accordance with a resolution of its Board of Alderman, be turned over to the proposed college. These resolutions were prepared by P. A. Dunn, chairman of committee, A. D. Jones, L. L. Polk, and others. A committee, J. T. LeGrand, chairman, H. E. Norris, D. M. McKay, and Geo. Z. French, was appointed to transmit these resolutions to the General Assembly and, with the aid of the committee appointed by the convention of the 18th inst., to secure the passage of an act embodying these resolutions.

The committee was ably assisted by Mr. Primrose, Dr. Dabney, Mr. H. E. Fries, Mr. Leazar and many others, and they did their work well. They prepared the bill which is in every essential particular the Act establishing this college. Mr. Leazar introduced the bill for the committee. In its passage through the Legislature it did not have a sail "through seas of heavenly rest." Not every one who voted for it favored it. Some wanted to reduce the appropriation to the University, others wished to cripple the Agricultural Department. They were, in fact, however, saving the department and rendering it far more useful to the people. Some Republicans demanded its government should be by directors from both political parties. Its friends accepted this amendment, which is, perhaps, wise, as it takes it out of politics. The bill could hardly have passed but for the timely

influence of Messrs. Keogh, Harris, Nichols and Eaves upon the Republican members of the Legislature. It had to run the gauntlet of amendments. Amendment by Mr. Ewart to locate upon his farm. Lost. Bill passed final reading in the House by a vote of 68 to 19.

Amendment by Mr. Mason in the Senate: "Locate near Chapel Hill on lands of J. A. Cheek." Lost. Amendment by Mr. Purcell to submit the question of establishment to the qualified voters of the State. Lost. "This is another sink-hole to bury the people's money in," exclaimed a youthful senatorial fossil from the West. "The people are not in favor of it, for it was not canvassed on a single stump in North Carolina!" "You are mistaken," said Mr. Eaves. "I made it an issue upon every stump in my county that my opponent voted against the Industrial School Act of the last Legislature, and I beat him upon that issue." The bill passed its final reading in the Senate and became a law on the 3d day of March, 1887, by a vote of 29 to 13.

Capt. S. B. Alexander, Mr. W. R. Williams and Mr. Pou, Mr. Leazar and Mr. Fries were among its principal advocates in the Legislature. Both presiding officers were its friends. Two years before Gov. Stedman had engineered the first Act through over the heads of an unfair and filibustering opposition. The passage of the Hatch Bill about this time appropriating \$15,000 to the College and Experiment Farm to be run in connection therewith, the generous donation of Mr. Pullen of this site and sixty acres surrounding, the strong pressure of two great conventions of farmers and the well-directed efforts of its friends in the city and elsewhere, with aid of friendly Representatives, swept the bill through the Legislature as if by storm. It will be a matter of interest one of these days to call the ayes and noes, but I will not call them now.

The main features of this Act are worthy of attention here. It provides that the name of the school shall be "The North Carolina College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts"; that it be located on the lands donated by R. S. Pullen; that it shall be

managed and controlled by the Board of Agriculture and five persons, who together constitute its trustees. (Their names appear upon the corner-stone). That the interest on the Land Scrip Fund, \$7,500 a year, shall be transferred to it on June 30th, 1888, or as soon thereafter as it shall be needed; that the Directors of the Penitentiary shall furnish requisite brick and stone and convict labor as they are able without interfering with previous contracts; that the assets and accumulated funds of the Industrial School be turned over to this College, and also the surplus funds of the Department of Agriculture not required in its regular work. (The expenses for regular work had just been limited by another Act to \$20,000 a year). That the Experiment and Fertilizer Control Station be connected with the College, and authority given to the Board to turn over to it all real and personal property in their possession, and also to receive donations from the United States government for Experiment Stations, and expend them in accordance with the Act of Congress. (This Act appropriates \$15,000 per annum to the College of Agriculture and to Experiment Station to be run in connection therewith. Part of this fund, under a construction of our Act of Assembly, is being applied to the Fertilizer Control Station). That the use of the Camp Mangum tract, 300 acres, situated half mile west of the State Fair Ground, be given to this College. That 120 students may be admitted free, each county being entitled to a scholarship for every member it sends to the General Assembly. Such students shall furnish evidence of their good moral character and their inability to pay tuition. That every student be required to take a course in manual training. That the Board of Trustees be composed of one-half of each political party. The laws of North Carolina do not seem to contemplate the possibility of a third party and have made no provision for it in the government of this institution.

A summary of some of the main features of the Hatch Act is necessary to a proper understanding of our Act of Assembly. It passed in its present shape March 2d, 1887, the day before ours became a law. It provides that in order to promote prac-

tical scientific investigation and experiment in the principles of agriculture, and to diffuse such information among the people, there shall be established, *under the direction of the agricultural college or colleges* of each State established and to be established under the Land Grant Act of 1862, a department to be known as "an Agricultural Experiment Station." That results of experiments and investigations shall be published quarterly in a bulletin to be sent to the newspapers of the State. That for the expenses of investigation and dissemination the sum of \$15,000 per annum shall be appropriated to be specially provided for by Congress in its appropriations from year to year. That of the first year's appropriation one-fifth may be used in the erection and repair of buildings, and five *per centum* thereafter. That this Act shall not impair the legal relations existing between the colleges and their State governments. That where States have experiment stations separate from such colleges this money may be applied to such stations. (Ours is in connection with this college and a part thereof, and will be more completely subordinated thereto by the next Legislature, if it carries out the intention of the Act of Congress). That where a State has an agricultural Department connected with a school not distinctively agricultural and shall have or shall thereafter establish a separate agricultural school in connection with an experimental farm, the Legislature may appropriate this fund in whole or in part thereto. That this appropriation shall be subject to the legislative assent of each State.

The assets of this institution are:

1. The site and sixty acres surrounding, donated by Mr. R. S. Pullen, valued at \$4,000.
2. The use of twenty acres of land in the State Fair Ground, donated by Directors of State Fair, valued at \$2,000.
3. Three hundred acres of land, the Camp Mangum tract, located about three-quarters of a mile west of this building, valued at \$5,000.
4. The Exposition Building, donated by the Raleigh stockholders, and valued at \$3,000.

5. Surplus of the Agricultural Department, \$14,000 *per annum*, contingent upon continued existence of the fertilizer tax.

6. The direct donations of the City of Raleigh in money, \$8,000.

7. The accumulated assets of the Industrial School set aside under Act of 1885, amounting to \$5,000.

8. The materials and labor furnished and to be furnished by the Directors of the Penitentiary, valued at \$6,000.

9. The State's certificate of indebtedness for the Land Scrip Fund, \$7,500 a year, a permanent endowment, if good government continues, of \$125,000.

10. The appropriations under the Hatch Act, \$15,000 *per annum*, equivalent, under certain limitations, to an endowment of \$300,000. Total, \$472,000.

11. The earnest labors of 500 of our best citizens and the best wishes of many thousand others.

Grand total: To be estimated by the future historian of this institution, who shall write the second chapter of its history, commencing with the beginning of practical operations by the Board of Trustees under the law of its establishment.

I am enabled to read a printed copy of this history through the enterprise and kindness of Mr. E. G. Harrell, who is an enthusiastic friend of this institution. I have finished the task that has been assigned to me. One or two thoughts and suggestions and I have done.

You must not expect too much of those who have this institution in charge, nor expect it too fast. I am glad I am not one of them. They have a splendid endowment to work with, but it is hedged about in part by limitations, and they are in a new and untried field in North Carolina. For awhile they must feel their way cautiously, as being partly in the dark. Said Gen. Johnstone Jones to me, himself a newspaper man: "I never saw the words Industrial Education in print in this State till this agitation by the Watauga Club." This may not prove that it never was in print, but it does prove that it was very rare. These Trustees, then, will meet many difficulties, will make

some mistakes, will receive some criticisms; but I confess here, by way of State's evidence, that every hindrance this institution has met so far has redounded ultimately to its benefit. The hill of difficulty which seems so steep to climb but helps us down the other side of it, and resistance to the progress of truth is God's method of advertising it. If those who have this movement in charge will only have faith, as said Abraham Lincoln, "The people, the people, the people, will carry them through."

I see, or I think I see, a difficulty that will dance attendance upon this institution with devilish pertinacity: *it is the tendency toward theoretical, literary and ultra-scientific education*. Although we have a thousand schools in the State where these things may be taught, and should be taught, the tempter sitting squat at the ear of the authorities will whisper, "This is the place to teach them." There are to-day five million people in the United States, and three million of them are in the South, who call black-letter scholasticism alone education. Lord Bacon waged war with these literary Apollyons, and they will be found fighting against progress on the day of judgment.

With Pharasaical zeal and bigotry, these men would feign have buried the new religion from Galilee mountain-deep beneath the fossil learning of the Rabbis and the traditions of the elders. They wanted to issue a diploma to its Divine Author before He could get authority to heal the sick or raise the dead. Fools seeing this institution in close and deadly struggle with this tendency will confound them *both* together and try to hurl *both* into the same destruction.

There is a class of friends, too, who must be resisted. Their cry is North Carolina for North Carolinians, which as often proceeds from a pot-hunter as from a patriot. Pay no attention to them. God made all this world from which to choose the best things that are in it. I charge you that you execute the people's business as you would your own, and that for this purpose you secure the best agents that can be found, under what sky soever they may have been born.

It was the custom among the Greeks and Romans to build great temples in honor of great principles and virtues. Their marble columns are standing to-day in unrivaled beauty upon this earth. The centuries crowd together like little children at their feet, and old Father Time, discouraged in his work of destruction, has sat himself down beside them to rest. No beholder of these splendid columns can doubt that the virtues of which they are monuments were at one time held in honor.

"I will build me an house," said Jehovah, the Great Royal Arch Mason and Supreme Architect of this universe, and the gilded dome of Solomon's Temple rose from the Hill of Mt. Zion, a beacon light for all the ages. To-day there stands near the Ganges a beautiful mausoleum or temple. It was built by an Indian King in honor of his affection for his wife. It is adorned and crowned with the purest white marble. Octagonal and slightly pyramidal in shape, it lifts its graceful head for more than 200 feet above the plain. Standing like a giant goddess of beauty, clothed in pure garments of white, it can be seen for 30 miles away. It has heard the rush of the sacred river for six centuries, but its marble looks almost as pure as if it had just sprung from the hand of the architect. As it arches itself upward in successive splendors of symmetry back toward the great Author of all things symmetrical and beautiful, it is one of the most magnificent works of man. The great eye of day, in his fierce, searching glance over all this earth lights not upon another such a monument to the virtue of affection. Fittest habitation on earth of the fittest virtue under heaven or in heaven!

No white marble pillows support the building whose cornerstone we have laid here to-day. At its feet no sacred river flows. In its walls are nothing but North Carolina brick and her still more solid sandstone. It is a goodly and a worthy structure, yet I will not compare it to the temple of the ancient Indian King; but in one respect they are alike. Both are the monuments of a labor of love; for this too is a temple reared by North Carolinians in affection for North Carolina and by North Carolina in affection for her children.

It may be injured by the parsimony of some future law-giver, or it may be enlarged by the generosity of some even more princely benefactor than Mr. Pullen, but I make this prophecy : that the principle of industrial education, for the want of a habitation wherein to dwell, shall walk naked in North Carolina no more again forever.

And to this building and the institution it embodies, and the principle of industrial education of which it is the home, I would say in the language of the Latins, itself an emblem of immortality, *esto perpetua!*

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